

April 14, 1999

S 951. HEALTH CARE WORKERS/ID BADGE. TO PROTECT PATIENTS' RIGHTS BY REQUIRING NAME BADGES OR OTHER IDENTIFICATION FOR HEALTH CARE

PRACTITIONERS. Adds new Art. 37 to GS Ch. 90 (new GS 90-640) to require specified badges.

Applies to individuals licensed, certified, or registered to engage in the practice of medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, or any related occupation involving the direct provision of health care to patients. Such health care practitioners, when providing health care to patients, must wear a badge or other form of identification displaying in readily visible type the individual's name and the license, certification, or registration the practitioner holds. Badge need not be worn if patient is being seen in practitioner's office and name and license can be readily determined by patient from a posted license, a sign in office, a brochure provided to patients, or otherwise. Authorizes licensing boards and other regulatory authorities for practitioners to adopt rules for exemption from wearing a badge or other form of identification, or for allowing use of practitioner's first name only, when necessary for practitioner's safety or for therapeutic concerns. Violation of section is a ground for disciplinary action against practitioner by his or her licensing board or other regulatory authority.

Amends GS 90-171.43, requiring license for practice of nursing, to specify that no one may use the word "nurse" as a title for himself or herself, unless the person is currently licensed as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse as provided by GS Ch 90, Art. 9A. Specifies that if the word "nurse" is part of a longer title, such as "nurse's aide," a person who is entitled to use that title is to use the entire title and may not abbreviate it to "nurse." Amends section authorizing the delegation to any person, including a member of patient's family, of routine, etc., patient-care services that do not require the professional judgment of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse, to specify that they may be delegated by a registered nurse (now, by a registered nurse, a licensed physician, or a licensed dentist).

Effective Oct. 1, 1999.

Intro. by Perdue.

Ref. to Health Care

GS 90

April 21, 1999

S 951. HEALTH CARE WORKERS/ID BADGE. Intro. 4/14/99. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Act is effective Oct. 1, 1999, but from Oct. 1, 1999 until Oct. 1, 2001, health care practitioners are required to wear name badges only.

June 30, 1999

S 951. HEALTH CARE WORKERS/ID BADGE. Intro. 4/21/99. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Eliminates deletion in the original bill of licensed physicians and dentists from the exemption for delegation of routine services, with the effect exempting delegation by these categories of people.